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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SMS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 EA-10 AF-10
ARA-10 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /081 W
----------108441 161711Z /44
O 161600Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 4953
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: NA
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SUBJECT: EAST EUROPEAN DELEGATIONS TO POPES FUNERAL

FROM VATICAN OFFICE

REF: STATE 205941

1. SUMMARY. THERE WERE HIGH-RANKING DELEGATIONS TO POPE PAULS STATE FUNERAL AUGUST 12 FROM FIVE EAST EUROPEAN STATES (EAST GERMANY,HUNGARY,POLAND,BULGARIA AND YUGOSLAVIA), REFLECTING RESPECT FOR THE PONTIFF, WHO WITH HIS 15 YEAR OLD OSTPOLITIK WAS SUCCESSFUL IN
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REACHING RAPPROCHEMENT IN MANY AREAS OF CHURCH/STATE AND VATICAN/STATE RELATIONS. THE USSR AND ROMANIA ONLY ALLOWED ECCLESIASTICAL DELEGATIONS TO ATTEND. EIGHT EAST EUROPEAN LEADERS SENT CONDOLENCES. END SUMMARY.

2. FIVE EAST EUROPEAN STATES ALLOWED ECCLESIASTICAL DELEGATIONS TO ATTEND AND SENT FORMAL DELEGATIONS TO

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POPE PAUL'S STATE FUNERAL AUGUST 12, AS FOLLOWS:
--EAST GERMANY: GERALD GOTTING,VICE PRESIDENT OF
THE COUNCIL OF STATE
--HUNGARY: REZSO TRAUTMANN, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PRESIDIUM)
--POLAND: ZDIZISLAW TOMAL, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE
COUNCIL OF STATE
--BULGARIA: VENELIN KOZEV, AMBASSADOR OF BULGARIA TO
ITALY.
--YOGOSLAVIA: JOSIP VZHOVEC, MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

3. TWO EAST EUROPEAN STATES (THE SOVIET UNION AND
ROMANIA) DID NOT SEND STATE DELEGATIONS BUT ALLOWED
RELIGIOUS DELEGATIONS TO ATTEND THE STATE FUNERAL.
THE USSR ALLOWED METROPOLITAN OF LENINGRAD (NICODIM) TO
REPRESENT THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PATRIARCH AND LATVIAN
BISHOP ZONDAG AND LITHUANIAN BISHOPS LABUCAS AND KZIKSCLUNAS
TO REPRESENT THE LOCAL CATHOLIC HIERARCHIES, ROMANIA
ALLOWED THE METROPOLITAN OF THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH,
NIKOLAI CORNEANU, TO HEAD THE DELEGATION. A VATICAN SOURCE
POINTS OUT THAT ROMANIA MAY HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE
OF THE SOVIETS IN ORDER NOT TO RUB THE SOVIETS
THE WRONG WAY ON THE EVE OF THE STATE VISIT OF THE
CHINESE LEADERSHIP. (NOTE: THERE WERE NO STATE
OR ECCLESIASTICAL DELEGATIONS FROM ALBANIA, THE PEOPLES
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REPUBLIC OF CHINA, VIETNAM, LAOS, CAMBODIA, MOZAMBIQUE
OR ANGOLA. CUBA DESIGNATED ITS AMBASSADOR TO THE HOLY
SEE.)

4. EIGHT EAST EUROPEAN LEADERS SENT SPECIAL CONDOLENCE
MESSAGES TO THE VATICAN AS FOLLOWS:
HUNGARY--PRESIDENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL LOSONCZI
USSR--LEONID BREZHNEV (NOTTITLE GIVEN)
CZECHOSLOVAKIA--PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC HUSAK
EAST GERMANY--CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF STATE HONECKER
POLAND--PRESIDENT COUNCIL OF STATE JABLONSKI
YUGOSLAVIA--PRESIDENTTITO
BULGARIA--PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE ZHIVKOV
ROMANIA--PRESIDNET CEAUSESCU

5. COMMENT: THE HIGH EAST EUROPEAN VISIBILITY AT
THE FUNERAL SHOULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF
POPE PAUL'S 15- YEAR OLD OSTPOLITIK WHICH HAS BROUGHT
ABOUT A GENERAL MODUS VIVENDI IN CHURCH STATE AND
VATICAN STATE RELATION IN EASTERN EUROPE. WE NOTE
PARTICULARLY THE FORMAL AND SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT AS
FAS AS POLAND, HUNGARY AND BULGARIA ARE CONCERNED,

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ILLUSTRATED BY VISITS TO THE POPE BY GIEREK (1977), KADAR (1977) AND ZHIVKOV (1975,) THE DEFACTO SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN EAST GERMANY AND ROMANIA, AND SOME PROGRESS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ATTESTED TO BY THE FREQUENT DIPLOMATIC DIALOGUE AND CONTACTS. HOLMES

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